

# Fighting Period Poverty

HB 1306 - Rep. Neely (R-8, Cameron)

HB 2065 - Rep. Mitten (D-83, St. Louis County)

SB 800 - Sen. Schupp (D-24, St. Louis County)

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Many people with low incomes can't afford to buy the period products they need to stay clean and healthy. Missouri currently taxes tampons, pads, pantyliners and menstrual cups as luxury items. Lowering the sales tax will help more people access the period products they need, stay healthy, and not miss school or work.

A 2018 survey, conducted by U by Kotex with YouGov, found:

- One in four women struggled to purchase period products within the past year due to lack of income.
- One in five women with low income report missing work, school, or similar events due to lack of access to period supplies.
- Lack of access to period supplies.
- Lack of access to period supplies is linked to using substitute products, like toilet paper or socks, stretching product usage, and missing important events.
- An overwhelming 88% of women agree that period products are a basic necessity.
- Only 4% of women are aware of a local resource where free or reduced cost period supplies are available.
- State and federal safety-net programs cannot be used to purchase period supplies.